

**Sarah Bomford to George Wahington, May 25, 1774,
Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.
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FROM MRS. SARAH BOMFORD.

DUBLIN Fishamble Street May 25th. 1774

SIR/

I had the favor of yours of the 22d. of Decr. – 73 which came to hand the 10th. of Febr'y – 74, your polite attention to me, and the elegant manner you acknowledge the rect. of my Letters require more expressions of Gratitude than I am Mistress of, I feel my Situation, and trust in God ere long your behaviour on this occasion will be rewarded in some publick manner, to induce others to follow your great example, Charity with us is common, but steady friendship founded on that principle almost without a president, this troublesome suit you have embark'd in is the cause of virtue, and but for your assistance the wretched object for aught I know might have perished in the Street, 'tis true our protection has preserv'd her Life hitherto, but you, good Sir, began the Work, ours is but a mite comparatively speaking, we have reason to hope from your last, that Mrs. Savage's affairs in Virginia are now near a conclusion, let me assure you with truth She merits a Continuation of your friendship for her, no doubt you have often heard the the Contrary, but believe me Sir, I wou'd not on any act. assist a falsehood, 'tis now two Years last March Since She became one of our Family, more virtue, and propriety of behaviour, founded on good understanding and Religion, as far as I am a judge, cannot be met in the Person of any one Mortal who must bear the Capricious frailties of their nature about them while they continue on this side of the Grave, your bountifull advancement to her I have

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declin'd acknowledging as it came to hand shortly after Mrs. Savage became one of our Household, and as I well know a Generous Mind declines applause, especially when their actions have a good foundation, thought it wou'd, at that time in me, be premature, but least the Letter She wrote from Whitehaven (which conveyed her thanks) Shou'd have miscarried, in her name I repeat her greatfull acknowledgements for that, and all other favors, one request on my own account I presume to make to Coll. Washington, that is a Continuation of his Correspondence 'tho there shou'd be no demand relative to business, I have conceived the highest opinion of his Worth, his Abilities speak themselves—therefore shou'd you decline this gratification I shou'd be tempted to lament the effect, 'tho the event wou'd be desirable—

—I am Sir, with great respect, Your Obedient humble Servant SARAH BOMFORD

Mrs. Bomford requests Coll. Washington will be so obliging as to excuse her not addressing him on Paper suitable to his Station, and agreeable to the Character in Life she wou'd wish to support, but as Guilt Paper wou'd require a double Cover, Mrs. Bomford imagines on this occation it wou'd be quite improper to put Coll. Washington to any trouble or expence that cou'd possibly be avoided—

Mrs. Savage was much distress'd at the black Was on Coll. Washington's last Letter, begs to hear his friends are well if not to troublesome presents her best respects to Mrs. Washington, if Mrs. Washington wou'd do me the favor to accept of my best sincere regards aded to hers, she wou'd do me honor¹

1 The following autograph draft of Washington's reply to Mrs. Bomford is bound in the manuscripts with her letter. As almost a half sheet of the paper on which it is written is missing, it has the appearance of being a fragment, which probably accounts for its not appearing in either Sparks' or Ford's editions of the Writings of Washington. It contains an interesting reference to the beginning of the Revolution, and is among the few specimens extant of Washington in correspondence with the other sex. MADAM—In acknowledging the receipt of your obliging favour of the 25th. of May which came to my hands a few days ago) I should find myself more much at a loss than I can at present if I did not consider the many flattering expressions contained in it as more the effect of your politeness rather than not of my deserts—however if in my part of the my transaction of Mrs. Savages's Business in this Country I have been able to satisfy her, & her Friends to give satisfaction to that Lady & convince them that I have her Interest has been the governing Motive of my Conduct I shall think myself happy, more especially as

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the unaccountable unreasonable delay, which hathve attended the prosecution of this Suit woud naturally lead one Strangers to believe that there had been a very great remissness somewhere—A few Months ago I expected flattered myself into a belief that we were upon the verge eve of remitting the Money having obtained judgement for immediately upon which I ordered Execution for but when behold I as the Doctr. had one card more to play havg playd all ye Game but that he was resolvd not to give it Up the Game without it, & stop'd the Execution by obtaining an Inju[n]ction in Chancery wch. however as we were determind to ferret him out of this hold as soon as possible would not have availd him long had it not been for a circumstance which is a publick misfortune to this Country as well as peculiarly unlucky & injurious to Mrs. Savage & that is a total stop to all judicial proceedings for want of a Fee Bill which we were deprivd of by a sudden & unexpected Dissolution of our Assembly (or Parliament) in May last, & by the unhappy differences which at this time prevails subsists betwn. Great Britain & her Colonies which has thrown every thing into great confusion & disorder from whence I cannot with certainty, say when we shall be reliev'd— This being the Situation of things, it does in my opinion behooves Mrs Savage I think not to be unprovid[ed] with a will as by the Doctrs. Bond her Annuity is devisable, and if her obligation's to your Family did not call for a grateful return it woud be a wrong to suffer the small pittance she reserved to herself at the time of her unhappy Marriage to fall into the hands of a V---n who I suppose would not afford her Bread has not only endeavourd to wrong [her] of it but wou'd I suppose deprive her of the very means of Existence if he could do it.—I should do injustice to my own feelings at the same time I should discover a very great want of taste if I was to decline a correspondence which does me confers so mch hon. upon me as yours does Mrs Washington also thanks you for your polite atten notice of her & begs your acceptance of her Compliments & that you will take the trouble of presenting them to Mrs. Savage at ye same time to whom please also to make a tender of my best respects. & inform her (as I have also done in a former Letter wch. I suppose has miscarried) that the black Wax on my Letter was occasioned by the death of Miss Custis whom we were unhappily deprivd of in June—73.—though unknown, I take the liberty of presenting my Complimts. to Mr. Bomford & to assure you that I with great regard have the bonr. to be Madn. yr. Most obt. & Oblg Hble. Servt. G: W---N Augt. 28th. 1774